

**MINUTES FROM THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE IN 2013**

**Town of Markham
Canada Room - Civic Centre**

April 17, 2013 – 5:45 p.m.

Members

Helen Walter
Phil Howes
Diane More
Peter Ross
Churchill Piggott
Jennifer Peters-Morales
David Johnson
Keith Thirgood
Councillor Campbell
David Konkle
Jonathan Mingay

Regrets

Ardy Reid
Councillor Moretti
Diane Kobelansky

Staff

Carlie Turpin, Committee Secretary
Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning
Sally Campbell, Senior Planner, Urban Design

Guest

Christine Matthews, Markham BIA

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee convened at 5:50 p.m. with Councillor Campbell as Chair, who began by asking for any declarations of interest with respect to items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

**i. Adoption Of The Minutes of the March 20, 2013 Meeting of the
Main Street Markham Committee**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting from March 20, 2013 be adopted.

(Attached)

2. UPDATES:

a) Main Street Markham Road Re-Construction – Detailed Design Stage– Peter Ross/Regan Hutcheson

i. Current Status of Project

The tender for the area between Highway 7 to Bullock for above ground work was issued for bidding on March 19. The initial time period for closing was Thursday April 18, 2013. However, the bid will be extended until April 24, 2013. The contractor for the area between 16th Ave. and Major Mackenzie will be submitting a bid. Following the bid closing staff will evaluate the bids and submit a report to Development Services Committee on May 7 for the recommendation for the contract. On May 14th the winning contractor will be notified by the city. The successful contractors will then be developing a plan for pedestrian and traffic management. The estimated start date is July 2, 2013 and the estimated completed date has been extended to Friday November 15, 2013 due to the Santa Clause parade being moved to a later date.

The planning for the improvements south of Highway 7 is at the 90% complete stage and property acquisition is being initiated. There will also be a marketing campaign to assist the BIA through the summer with managing construction issues. The budget for the marketing campaigning has already been approved and set aside. The Markham Main St. website has been updated to provide up to date information regarding the construction process. This will be the primary tool for communicating with the public.

The area from 16th Ave to Major Mackenzie has been subjected to weather problems that have caused completion delays. The revised estimated completion date will be late June or early July.

ii. Update on the next Project Liaison Committee

The next PLC meeting is planned for the week of May 14th to discuss the commercial patio policy that the Urban Design Team is working on for Markham Village. This draft policy will be presented to Development Services on May 21. The next PLC after that will likely be the week of June 6, 2013.

b) Proposed Commercial Patio Policy – Sally Campbell

Sally provided a presentation on her work to date on the concept of introducing commercial patios on the public right-of-way. She reviewed the importance and benefits commercial patios can bring to the City. She also provided a review of considerations and constraints for the specific area being contemplated including: width of the boulevard, location and width of the sidewalk, placement and design of street furniture, extent of private front yard, driveways and public safety.

Three different types of patios will be presented: Boulevard patios (type A), sidewalk patio (type B) and single row patio (type C). The key component of type A is the linear path for sidewalk travel is maintained and a fenced area for the patio is provided on the boulevard between the sidewalk and the curb.

The key components of type B include: deviating the sidewalk treatment to the curb area to create a continuous patio area with the private property, maintaining the urban Braille features and the replacement of a portion of the pavers with concrete to create a linear sidewalk for winter use when the patio is removed. Where fences are proposed in Type A and B, the posts have to be designed so as to not damage the pavers.

Planter boxes are also encouraged on the fences.

The key components of type C are best suited for unlicensed establishments, featuring a linear sidewalk without a fence enclosure whereby a single row of seating can be placed up against the building face.

Staff prefers types A and C that maintain the continuous linear path of travel to allow for efficient and safe design. The sidewalk is still set back from the road, allowing for a buffer between the vehicles travelling on the roads and pedestrians walking on the sidewalk.

Potential regulations include: setback requirements and fence height and styles. All components shall complement the style of the streetscape, including solid attractive patio furniture, temporary lighting, umbrellas and awnings.

Potential permit process will be administered by By-law Enforcement with regulations incorporated into the Business Licensing Application process. An encroachment agreement is required and site plan drawings and elevations will be reviewed and approved by Urban Design and Heritage Planning. Staff clarified that that the site plan drawings required would not need to be stamped by an architect but would have to be to scale.

Other considerations include any portion of the patio on private property must meet the provisions of the existing zoning by-law that regulates patios.

Staff would like to work with the BIA to have the BIA advocate for the style and design of the patios. Staff was also requested to consult with the AGCO regarding any policies and guidelines that may be applicable to commercial patios.

Next steps include continuing with stakeholder consultation, work with by-laws and operations, report back to DSC on May 21st, following feedback from DSC staff will finalize regulations for enactment and complete design guidelines for adoption.

Committee discussed the merits of patio types A and B - split patios versus the deviated sidewalk going around the patio. Issues of concern to the Committee included safety of pedestrians, loss of trees on bump outs, advertising signs, street furniture, accessibility issues, and the practicality of moving food and beverages across sidewalks in the case of type A boulevard patios.

Following the commercial patio policy presentation the Committee discussed the following in detail:

- Options for eliminating the A frame signs placed on Main St. to make it more uniform and not clutter the streetscape. Alternatives included small signs attached to patio fences that will identify the daily specials etc. The BIA noted they were exploring standardizing the A frame signs used on Main St. to provide a more traditional, uniform appearance.
- Uniformity of street furniture – it was suggested that businesses may want to coordinate the purchase of street furniture for use on the patio to ensure a uniform appearance on all the commercial patios on City property. By coordinating the purchase businesses may also be able to obtain a discount from suppliers.
- Umbrella advertising – Committee expressed concern for the use of umbrellas with extensive advertising on them. Other Members felt the advertising added animation to the street. It was suggested that umbrellas could potentially be included in the uniform street furniture.
- Patio heaters – the Committee expressed concern that patio heaters would not be allowed on the City owned portion of patios. The City is concerned with the liability of placing the heaters on City property.
- Patio area – Committee questioned the value of the proposed 1m clearance required between adjacent patios. Some Committee members felt the expansion of patios in the boulevard in front of adjacent properties may be warranted in certain situations.
- Tree area – it was confirmed that trees would not have grates and the pavers would be placed adjacent to the trunk to allow for maximum useable space for the patios.

The Committee discussed in details the merits and issues surrounding the deviated sidewalk concept. The Committee identified a number of concerns including:

- Deviating the sidewalk to the curb area raises the issue of public safety by putting the pedestrian next to an active travel lane with little to no buffer.
- Concern was expressed that the deviated concept would eliminate the tree and any street furniture from the area.
- A small degree of deviation would be desirable to serve to animate the streetscape, however if a large number of trees would be lost as a result the Committee is not in favour. Incorporating trees into the landscape has been a primary goal of the Committee since the beginning of this process.
- It was noted that approximately 15 businesses expressed a desire for a deviated sidewalk and most did not wish to have a tree.
- There was much discussion on how to limit the number of deviated sidewalks (i.e. if a restaurant already had a front yard patio, then the sidewalk would not be deviated, or if liquor was being served, deviation could be supported).
- Desire expressed to include the Deviated Sidewalk concept as one of the preferred concepts under certain circumstances.
- It was noted that if a deviated sidewalk is installed and the restaurant later leaves, the streetscape will have concrete where the deviated sidewalk once was as opposed to pavers.

Main Street Markham Committee Recommends that:

The Committee support patio type B, as presented by staff, as one of the preferred options for commercial patios on Main St., where appropriate.

Moved by: Phil Howes

Seconded by: Diane More

CARRIED

c) Incoming Planning Applications – Regan Hutcheson

Review of incoming planning applications for the following properties: 20 Markham St. The following properties submitted grant requests: 55 Albert St., 5 George St., 48, 69, 369 and 370 Main St. N., 33 Joseph St., 6 and 8 Water St. The following properties submitted building permits: 143 and 380 Main St. N., 36 Church St. and 48 George St.

d) Official Plan – Regan Hutcheson

Official Plan Statutory Public meeting is Tuesday April 23, 2013 at the Civic Centre.

4. New Business

a) Sign on train station – Regan Hutcheson

The replica “Markham” roof sign (indicating distances to Cobcoconk and Toronto) that was placed on the train station during its restoration appears to have blown off and has disappeared. The sign will require replacement and Committee supports replacing the sign with a replica sign as per the original.

b) Parking on Centre & Water St. – Councillor Campbell

Councillor Campbell advised that a new by-law is being brought forward to restrict street parking on Centre St. and Water St.

5. Adjournment

The Main Street Markham Committee meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.